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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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ECONOMIC INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	25X1
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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The Bukhovo Uranium Mine

1. Bukhovo (N 42-45, E 23-34), located 22 kilometers from Sofia, is a forbidden area surrounding the uranium mine situated directly behind Seslavtsi village. Watch towers, manned by both Soviet and Bulgarian troops, have been erected on the perimeter of the area and no one may enter without a special pass. An infantry regiment is stationed at Yana and other villages in the Bukhovo area.
2. The mine is worked by 2,000 laborers who receive 1,000 leva per month (skilled factory workers are normally paid 600 leva per month). The men work day and night; during the night the area is floodlighted by searchlights. Workers travel to and from Sofia in Soviet trucks. Soviet technicians are in charge of the mine.
3. The uranium ore is sent to the USSR. The only processing given the ore locally is a water-washing to get rid of the earth. The ore is transported by truck to the nearest railroad station, Yana, a distance of three kilometers. The new Sofia-Burgas rail line via Makotsevo passes near the mine.
4. [REDACTED] extensive prospecting is being carried out in the Stara Planina Mountains, which are said to contain large deposits of uranium.
5. On the night of 5 July 1953, an unidentified plane flew over the Bukhovo area, dropping leaflets written in Bulgarian. The mine was blacked out for an hour. The leaflets called on the workers not to operate the mine for the Soviets as the time would soon come when "friendly powers" would buy the ore "for the prosperity of Bulgaria."

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Transport, Fuel, and Ball Bearings

6. Bulgaria has been supplied with a large number of Soviet ZIS trucks, but spare parts are scarce.
7. Because of the fear of sabotage, the well known gasoline depot near the Elprom Electrical Factory in the Nadezhda Quarter of Sofia was moved to an unknown location a year ago.
8. It is impossible to buy good ball bearings in Sofia. The only ones available are of Soviet manufacture and are worthless.

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